1   WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1.   An on-line system for printing a value bearing item
(VBI) comprising:

5   a client subsystem for interfacing with a user
comprising;

a graphical user interface (GUI) for installing
software for printing the VBI;

a GUI for registering the user in the system; and

10   a GUI for managing the printing of the VBI; and

a server subsystem capable of communicating with the
client subsystem over a computer network for authorizing the
client subsystem to print the VBI.

15   2.   The system of claim 1, wherein the VBI bears postage
value.

3.   The system of claim 1, wherein the VBI is a ticket.

20   4.   The system of claim 1, wherein the VBI is one or more
of a coupon, a currency, a voucher, and a check.

5.   The system of claim 1, wherein the client subsystem
further comprises a GUI for specifying a payment method.

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6.   The system of claim 1, wherein the client subsystem
further comprises a GUI for making changes to the user's
information.

30   7.   The system of claim 1, wherein the client subsystem
further comprises a GUI for displaying the user information
including an account information.

8.   The system of claim 7, wherein the account information
35   includes an amount of credit left in the account.

1   9.   The system of claim 1, wherein the client subsystem further comprises a GUI for specifying an address book from a plurality of address books so that the system can use the address book to print addresses.

5   10.   The system of claim 1, wherein the client subsystem further comprises a GUI for entering a password so that the server subsystem can store the entered password and verify the password.

10   11.   The system of claim 1, wherein the server subsystem includes an address matching module for verifying an address entered by the user.

15   12.   The system of claim 1, wherein the GUI for installing software comprises of a GUI for the user to specify the type of connection to the computer network.

    13.   The system of claim 1, wherein the GUI for installing software comprises of a GUI for reporting error messages to the user.

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    14.   The system of claim 1, wherein the GUI for installing software comprises of a GUI for canceling an installation process.

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    15.   The system of claim 1, wherein the GUI for registering the user comprises of a GUI for entering user information.

30   16.   The system of claim 1, wherein the GUI for registering the user comprises of a GUI for offering the user a plurality of service plans and for selecting by the user a service plan of choice.

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17. The system of claim 1, wherein the GUI for registering the user comprises of a GUI for reporting error messages to the user.

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18. The system of claim 1, wherein the GUI for registering the user comprises of a GUI for canceling a registration process.

19. The system of claim 1, wherein the GUI for managing the printing comprises of a GUI for displaying a graphical image of the VBI.

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20. The system of claim 1, wherein the GUI for managing the printing comprises of a first GUI for printing a quality assurance VBI.

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21. The system of claim 20, further comprising a second GUI for displaying selectable choices of a printed quality assurance VBI.

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22. The system of claim 1, wherein the GUI for managing the printing comprises of a GUI for troubleshooting selected printing options.

23. The system of claim 1, wherein the GUI for managing the printing comprises of a GUI for providing envelope options.

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24. The system of claim 1, wherein the GUI for managing the printing comprises of a GUI for providing label options.

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25. The system of claim 1, wherein the GUI for managing the printing comprises of a GUI for providing postage options.

26. The system of claim 1, wherein the GUI for managing the printing comprises of a GUI for reporting error messages to the user.

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27. The system of claim 1, wherein the GUI for managing the printing comprises of a GUI for canceling a print process.

28. The system of claim 5 further comprising a GUI for displaying credit card information fields to be filed by the user when the user specifies a credit card for the payment method.

29. An interactive online postage printing system comprising:

an installation wizard including a graphical user interface (GUI) for downloading and installing software for postage printing from a server connected to a computer network;

a registration wizard including a GUI for facilitating the registration of a user with the system; and

a printing wizard including a GUI for facilitating printing of a postage indicium.

30. The system of claim 29, wherein the registration wizard includes a GUI for specifying a payment method.

31. The system of claim 30 further comprising a GUI for displaying credit card information fields to be filled by the user.

32. The system of claim 29, wherein the registration wizard includes a GUI for making changes to the user's information.

33. The system of claim 29, wherein the registration wizard includes a GUI for displaying the user information including an account information.

34. The system of claim 33, wherein the account information includes an account balance.

1   35.   The system of claim 29, wherein the installation wizard includes a GUI for specifying an address book so that the system can use the address book to print addresses.

5   36.   The system of claim 29, wherein the registration wizard includes a GUI for entering a password so that the server can store the entered password and verify the password.

        37.   The system of claim 29, wherein the server includes an
10 address matching database for verifying an address entered by the user.

        38.   The system of claim 29, wherein the installation wizard includes a GUI for the user to specify the type of connection to
15 the computer network.

        39.   The system of claim 29, wherein the installation wizard includes a GUI for reporting error messages to the user.

20   40.   The system of claim 29, wherein the installation wizard includes a GUI for canceling an installation process.

        41.   The system of claim 29, wherein the registration wizard includes a GUI for entering user information.
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        42.   The system of claim 29, wherein the registration wizard includes a GUI for offering the user a plurality of service plans and selecting by the user a service plan of choice.

30   43.   The system of claim 29, wherein the registration wizard includes a GUI for reporting error messages to the user.

        44.   The system of claim 29, wherein the printing wizard includes a GUI for displaying a graphical image of a sample
35 postage on an envelope.

45. The system of claim 29, wherein the printing wizard includes a first GUI for printing a quality assurance VBI.

46. The system of claim 45, further comprising a second GUI for displaying selection choices of the shape of a printed quality assurance postage sample.

47. The system of claim 29, wherein the printing wizard includes a GUI for troubleshooting selected printing options.

48. The system of claim 29, wherein the printing wizard includes a GUI for providing envelope options.

49. The system of claim 29, wherein the printing wizard includes a GUI for providing label options.

50. The system of claim 29, wherein the printing wizard includes a GUI for providing postage options.

51. The system of claim 29, wherein the printing wizard includes a GUI for reporting error messages to the user.

52. A method for printing a value bearing item (VBI) over a computer network having a client system and a server system, the method comprising the steps of:
   displaying a first GUI by the client system for registering a user;
      establishing communication with the server via the network;
      entering user information in the first GUI; and
      communicating the entered user information to the server;

53. The method of claim 52 further comprising the steps of:
   displaying a second GUI by the client system including printing options for managing the printing of the VBI;
   selecting one or more printing options from the second GUI;

1   and

         printing the VBI according to the selected one or more
     printing options.

5   54.   The method of claim 53, wherein the step of printing the
     VBI comprises printing a postage value.

         55.   The method of claim 53, wherein the step of printing the
     VBI comprises printing a ticket.

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         56.   The method of claim 53, wherein the step of printing the
     VBI comprises printing one or more of a coupon, a currency, a
     voucher, and a check.

15   57.   The method of claim 52 further comprising displaying a
     third GUI for installing software for printing the VBI.

         58.   The method of claim 52, wherein the step of displaying
     a first GUI comprises displaying a GUI for specifying a payment
20   method.

         59.   The method of claim 52, wherein the step of displaying
     a first GUI comprises displaying a GUI for making changes to the
     user's information.

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         60.   The method of claim 52, wherein the step of displaying
     a first GUI comprises displaying a GUI for displaying the user
     information including an account information.

30   61.   The method of claim 60, wherein the account information
     includes an account balance.

         62.   The method of claim 52, further comprising the step of
     displaying a third GUI for specifying an address book so that the
35   system can use the address book to print addresses.

1   63.   The method of claim 52, further comprising the step of displaying a third GUI for entering a password so that the server system can store the entered password and verify the password.

5   64.   The method of claim 52, further comprising the step of verifying an address by the server system entered by the user.

          65.   The method of claim 52, wherein the step of displaying a first GUI comprises displaying a GUI for offering the user a

10   plurality of service plans and selecting by the user a service plan of choice.

          66.   The method of claim 52, wherein the step of displaying a first GUI comprises displaying a GUI for reporting error

15   messages to the user.

          67.   The method of claim 52, wherein the step of displaying a first GUI comprises displaying a GUI for canceling a registration process.

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          68.   The method of claim 53, wherein the step of displaying a second GUI comprises displaying a GUI for displaying a graphical image of the VBI.

25   69.   The method of claim 53, wherein the step of displaying a second GUI comprises displaying a QA GUI for printing a quality assurance VBI.

          70.   The method of claim 69, further comprising displaying

30   a third GUI for displaying selectable choices of the shape of a printed sample VBI.

          71.   The method of claim 53, wherein the step of displaying a second GUI comprises displaying a GUI for troubleshooting

35   selected printing options.

72. The method of claim 53, wherein the step of displaying a second GUI comprises displaying a GUI for providing envelope options.

73. The method of claim 53, wherein the step of displaying a second GUI comprises displaying a GUI for providing label options.

74. The method of claim 53, wherein the step of displaying a second GUI comprises displaying a GUI for providing postage options.

75. The method of claim 53, wherein the step of displaying a second GUI comprises displaying a GUI for reporting error messages to the user.

76. The method of claim 53, wherein the step of displaying a second GUI comprises displaying a GUI for canceling a print process.

77. The method of claim 52, further comprising the step of displaying a second GUI for the user to withdraw the user's account.

78. The method of claim 52, further comprising the step of displaying a second GUI for communicating a message to the user.

79. The method of claim 53, wherein the step of selecting one or more printing options comprises the steps of:
prompting the user to place an envelope in a printer;
displaying a plurality of patterns, wherein only one of the plurality of patterns completely prints onto the envelope fed through the printer;
selecting one of the plurality of displayed patterns based upon which pattern appears to the user; and

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1　　　　ascertaining if the printer feeds envelopes from the top,
center, or bottom based on the selected pattern.

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